



# CWIS Chest Wall Injury Summit 2023

Oral Presentation Abstract Submission

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**Title of Presentation** SSRF'ing the literature: Trends in Publications since Tanaka's Landmark Results over 20 years ago

## Background

The first publication to show shorter ventilator days, shorter ICU stay, and decreased pneumonia rates was published by Tanaka et al. just over 20 years ago (Tanaka 2002). Since that time, Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures (SSRF) has seen a dramatic increase in interest and practice. Our study aimed to examine the trends in publication of scholarly articles related to SSRF since Tanaka's landmark paper.

## Methods

We performed a science mapping bibliometric analysis of the Scopus Database using citation analysis. We chose to use the keywords "surgical rib fixation", while excluding "nuss", "pectus", and "spine". Results were limited to publications from the year 2002 to current.

## Results

A total of 620 documents were discovered using the keywords and date range. 32% of these publications originated from the United States. The number of publications by year increased with astonishing pace, starting at just 7 publications in 2002 while 75 publications have already been published in 2022 (Figure 1). The most cited article during this time period was Tanaka's landmark study. The most popular academic journal to publish articles regarding SSRF was the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, which published almost 40% more articles than the second most popular journal (Figure 2). Three of the top ten cited articles were also published in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. Sub-analysis was also able to determine the most popular institutions and individual authors who published about SSRF in the last 20+ years.

## Conclusion

Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures has become increasingly popular in the academic literature since the landmark paper by Tanaka et. al in 2002. Bibliometric analysis of the literature during this time

period yields important information regarding the most popular articles published. These articles can set a framework for practicing surgeons, or those in training, who perform or wish to learn more about Surgical Stabilization of Rib Fractures.